

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM September 8, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors meeting held via Zoom.

Members present: Marcel Noyes, Chair
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary
Don Sells, Treasurer

Members absent: District 3 Supervisor

Others present: Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager
Annette Olson, Administrative Assistant
Brandon Spain-Brist, Forestry (*left meeting after Lindberg's presentation*)
Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality (*left meeting after reporting*)
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist
Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner

Guest Presentation: Lindberg Ekola, BWSR Forest Stewardship Planning Coordinator
(*attended for presentation only*)

Chair Noyes opened the Zoom meeting at 8:34 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Items added to the agenda: Staff asked to add Lindberg Ekola presentation at 10:00 am. **A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Goodrich moved to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Rettinger seconded the motion. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sells and Chair Noyes requested clarification on several Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss report items. Staff gave updates as requested. Treasurer Sells presented the treasurer's report to the board, subject to the auditor's review.

OLD BUSINESS

- **2022 Tree Selection to Order by End of August:** Brandon gave updates for the proposed order. Dolgo Crabapple trees are not available through our usual supplier, staff will continue to search for another nursery or substitute with a Magenta Crabapple. We might need to increase our pack price as the nurseries are figuring a 5-10% price increase.

We still need to find White Cedar, the best suited cedar for this part of the state. Brandon will also prepare a separate order form for the COLA September 30th meeting.

- **BWSR Approved the Five-Year Amendment Waiver to the LWMP on 8/15/2021:** Staff reported that the LWMP revision waiver request also has been approved by Hubbard County. BWSR sent notice that they approved the waiver as well.
- **Culvert Repair C-S on Fordyce Road on Shingobee River Headwaters:** BWSR has indicated that this culvert would not be a good fit for a clean water cost-share project and Crystal will continue to investigate this and report new information directly to our supervisors as it becomes available. With this being a ‘high priority’ area we are not sure why it is not an appropriate project. We are still waiting for a tool from BWSR to provide guidance on the steps to take for development of these projects. This will help us make best use of our time and allow us to appropriately use 1W1P funds.
- **RIM Easement and Cost-Share Spot Checks:** Crystal reported that she was able to do the RIM easement inspections with drone fly overs and she submitted her report before she left on vacation. There are a few areas needing thistle control. Crystal visited with the appropriate landowners concerning this.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sonde – Sensor Cap Not Working:** Jake reported our sonde’s dissolved oxygen reflective cap is worn out and he had to borrow the DNR’s device to complete the scheduled testing. He was able to locate a used replacement DO cap through the manufacturer until we can order a new one. A new cap is estimated at \$125.00. The Board recommended/authorized staff to order a new cap for next year’s sampling.
- **Possible Crow Wing Township Erosion Control Project:** Jake gave information on a possible future project on the north-east side of 2nd Crow Wing Lake in Crow Wing Township. A video taken at the site during our recent rainfall, showed a large amount of sand and silt washing directly into the lake from uncontrolled storm runoff across a public road and through private lakeshore. Jake has a first site visit this morning at 10am with Crow Wing Lake Township officers, who requested the meeting. They indicated several private landowners are on board to fix this issue, hopefully, by next year. We will solicit township and private contributions to help with cost-share funds.
- **Kabekona River Project Cost-Share Contract:** Jake reported the updated plans have dropped the cost to \$71,000 and the updated contract has been signed by the landowner and engineer and we are looking for the Board signature for our project to move forward. Chair Noyes requested that the note on the bottom of the contract be updated to reflect the new lower amount. Staff will update and mail out to Chair Noyes for signature. Jake also reported that we are about to complete the Kabekona River testing and the DNR testing information should be available by the end of September/beginning of October. The Board is requesting final information be compiled and then schedule/hold a virtual meeting to go over the information and possible action to take for correction with all concerned parties.
- **Fall Newsletter Articles:** Staff requested articles to be turned in by the end of the week for our Fall Newsletter so that we can meet our end of September/beginning of October mail out timeline. Suggestions from the Board include an article on how we actively monitor the ground water, levels in aquifers and levels in lakes.

- **Fall Tour – Who Plans to Attend?** Staff asked for head count on who will attend the fall tour in the Walker area. Two supervisors indicated they would attend virtually if available. (Don S & Lynn G)
- **2022 Grazing Workshop In-Person or Cancel?** Staff is asking if we should hold this event in January 2022. Dan indicated that we should be starting the meeting process soon. Possibility of a hybrid meeting format was discussed. More information will be brought to the October meeting.
- **2022 Plat Book – Additions/Deletions:** Staff reported that they met and went through the process of our last edition. We are looking for favorite photos taken by staff to submit and update photos in the 2019 Plat Book. There will be a few edits to current pages and swapping of photos for the 2022 book. All items need to be submitted by the end of September.
- **COVID – Certification of Vaccination for Staff/Office Entrance:** Crystal highlighted the information sent out from the USDA-FSA office and asked Dan for his thoughts. She will collect the needed forms and submit to FSA. Details on logistics are still being evaluated and will be updated when available. As of now our office is still closed to the public and we are still practicing COVID protocols as needed. Once our doors are open, we should consider having a guest/visitor sign in sheet with contact information.

PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Krueger: Mr. Krueger reported that Hubbard County approved the conditional use for the public campground in Akeley for 21 sites. They also approved the shoreland ordinance amendments that became effective as soon as they were published. The short-term rental portion will become effective in May. An AMC policy meeting will be next week in Alexandria. Mr. Krueger is part of the Environmental Committee, and they will choose three items they want to work on, additional information to come. The County will be working on the preliminary budget at their next workshop meeting and hope to approve at their next board meeting.

- A question was asked about \$75 reward per beaver hide. The trapper must have a valid trapper's license and the County Engineer, Jed Nordin will approve payment from through the County.
- A question was asked about would we need to contact for spotted knap weed problems. Jed Nordin is the contact to reach out to.

Lindberg Ekola: Crystal introduced BWSR's Forest Stewardship Planning Coordinator, Lindberg Ekola, who has just joined our meeting, to share his presentation on Growing Forestry with Districts in Minnesota. Mr. Ekola covered private forest management (PFM), landscape stewardship plans (LSP) with 1W1P & WBIG funding mechanism with local forestry technical teams (LFTs); and addressed the developing Crow Wing River Watershed LSP and 1W1P. Mr. Lindberg then talked about a DNR round-two contract with the vision and pathways for PFM. Mr. Lindberg left our meeting after his presentation.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Dan Pazdernik gave his report, his notes are available upon request. He noted that the state conservationist is planning to visit Hubbard County soon.

Chair Noyes called for a break at 10:26 am.

Meeting reconvened at 10:33 am.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND MEETINGS

Chair Noyes: Mr. Noyes mentioned the Pierce project at his Lions meeting and got confirmation from several members they could help with this project toward the end of September. He would like Jake to stay in touch as the project moves forward. He mentioned the Lions will want trees again this year. He attended the Mississippi Board Meeting where there wasn't a quorum. They decided to adjourn and will need to hold a special meeting by September 14th to conduct their business items. He starts his full-time substitute teacher position tomorrow. Chair Noyes announced he will be out of town for the November board meeting.

Supervisor Rettinger: Nothing to report for August.

Supervisor Sells: Mr. Sells will plan to attend the Friday LFT meeting if there is a virtual option. The SWCD Forestry meeting will be held in Grand Rapids where they will tour the Blandin Paper Company and learn about their forest operations and then will hold the business meeting. He plans to attend the meeting if virtual. Mr. Sells requested an update on the 8th Street rain garden and possible cover crops for gardens. He attended the recent COLA meeting where Claire and Jake did a presentation "Developed Lands Pollinator and Runoff Reduction Gardening Grant" which will fund public education thru staff interaction.

Supervisor Goodrich: Mr. Goodrich attended the COLA meeting where Jake and Claire did a presentation.

District Manager's Report: Crystal Mathisrud gave a short report and indicated she will send out updates as she works with items she needs to catch up on after returning from vacation. Her notes are available upon request. Abby's presentation went very well at the Spearhead Center and Claire will attend the Butterfly Festival in Bemidji this weekend. She highlighted what we are looking forward to this winter months.

Administrative Assistant's Report: Annette Olson's gave a few additional updates on items the Board questioned from her notes presented. Her notes are available upon request.

CORRESPONDENCE

Staff presented a thank-you card from the Environmental Educational Building for our yearly nitrate clinic and information display board. A thank-you card from the Hubbard County Historical Museum for the donation of a 2013 and 2016 Plat Book and a couple of the Geological Maps of the aquifers in Hubbard County also was received. MCIT sent us our 2022 contribution notice and the 2019-2020 Biennial Report. Brandon completed an 'odd year' draft tree list to start with in future years. Staff updated a list of staff pay rates and sent to the supervisors. Russ Johnsrud requested and received a copy of the 2019 plat book for the MN Deer Hunters annual banquet for their raffle. Crystal sent out a map of the Leech Lake Watershed to request aerial shots from anyone taking aerial footage.

WORKING LIST OF PRIORITIES:

- Leadership: Staff will need to verify things are getting accomplished going forward, to ensure that we are not missing deadlines. We need to keep updating our virtual lab to keep it fresh. Supervisor Noyes met with his district county commissioner.
- Financial Management: Staff will plan to move the \$100,000 CD into a new \$50,000 CD and the remaining \$50,000 (plus interest earned) into the savings account for availability of funds for monthly expenses. Board is okay with this plan.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday, October 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. via ZOOM. Items on the agenda: article for newspaper, review draft of annual work plan & report, resolutions, district manager annual review, 2022 grazing workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Goodrich to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

APPROVED: 10/13/21
Date

SECRETARY 
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary